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ABSTRACT

Activities and books which parents can use to enhance the art education of their gifted children are recommended. The following topics are included: (1) developing an appreciation of art; (2) developing an understanding of art principles and the ways that great artists used those principles; (3) creating original art; (4) constructing collages; (5) making mobiles and stabiles; (6) looking at architecture; and (7) learning about photography. Annotations which describe the books and which suggest ways that they can be used are provided for most of the 24 books listed. (D)

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Working With Your Gifted Child At Home

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Develop An Appreciation for Art

To help you and your child discover the beautiful, exciting world of art together, begin by reading The Story of Painting, by H. W. Janson and Dora Jane Janson. Because this book not only provides the story of painting but also gives a guide to the enjoyment of pictures as well as explaining why art is developed in certain ways, it is an excellent aid to use with your gifted child. The handsome color reproductions will stimulate conversation.

Make visits to see art in museums, art stores, civic buildings, schools, private homes, city streets, cemeteries, churches or synagogues, etc. Before your visit to the museum, the following book will be very helpful for your child to read:

> Let's Go to An Art Museum by Mary Jo Barreson, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1960.

This book explains what a museum does, how it works, and what one can expect to see. It has an extremely useful glossary and is an easy to read" book.

Develop Some Art Principles

Participate in projects that would develop the principles of form, line, color, and perspective. Show, by creating a project or painting, how form, line, color, and perspective develop a painting or sculpture. The following books will provide excellent sources for information:

> Painting, Printing, and Modeling, New York: Franklin Watts, Inc.

This book has selections for the very young (5 yrs.). It depicts the techniques and materials needed to paint, print, and model.

> The First Book of Painting by Lamont Moore, New York: Franklin Watts, Inc., 1960.

This is an excellent introduction to the principles of painting: line, shape, light, and color. Great works of art are used to illustrate these elements or principles.

> The Natural Way to Draw by Kimon Nicolaides, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

This book provides excellent insight into the world of drawing and will be an excellent reference for you and your child.

> Pencil, Pen and Brush by Harvey Weiss, New York: William R. Scott, Inc.

This is a simply written book explaining the elements of painting: line, form, shape, contrast, shading, color, and perspective. The sections on perspective and shading are especially worthwhile.

The Story of Painting by H. W. Janson and Dora Jane Janson, New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Publishers.

This book has beautiful reproductions of famous works of art. Have your child analyze some of the works in this excellent collection by discussing and or illustrating how the artist used the elements of painting to develop his work.

Create Some Art

Once your child has developed some understanding about the principles of art and how great artists use these principles, encourage some original works of art. The following books by Harvey Weiss are excellent introductions to creating original art. Some of these books are offered in paperback.

Pencil, Pen and Brush by Harvey Weiss, New York: William R. Scott, Inc.

Clay, Wood and Wire (Sculpture) by Harvey Weiss, New York: William R. Scott, Inc.

Sticks, Spools, and Feathers (Crafts) by Harvey Weiss, New York: William R. Scott, Inc.

Ceramics: From Clay to Kiln by Harvey Weiss, New York: William R. Scott, Inc.

If your child enjoys modeling, the following book will be most helpful:

Sculpture, Clay, Soap and Other Materials by Roger Lewis, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952.

This is a delightful "how to" book about modeling people, animals, birds, and other interesting objects. Modeling affords an opportunity for the gifted child to create new forms as well as experiment with space and shape.

Construct Some Collages

Collages and constructions draw upon the gifted child's need to create. A collage is a picture made on a flat surface using a variety of materials or media. Collages afford an opportunity for experimenting with different shapes, arrangements, and materials as well as providing an opportunity to organize visual and tactile responses. The following books will provide a great deal of information about collages:

Collage and Construction in Grades 1-4 by Lisa Lord, Worchester, Mass.: Davis Publications, Inc., 1970.

This has some lively examples of collages and construction as well as a listing of materials needed. It has great ideas for special projects also.

Collage and Construction by Harvey Weiss, New York:
Young Scott Books, 1970.

This is a "how to" book with definitions and the history of collages. Many of the suggested projects in the books are great for the imagination because they demand investigation and encourage experimentation with shapes, colors, images, and ideas.

Cutting-Up with Paper by Peter and Carol Weiss, New York:
Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, 1973.

This book provides some basic techniques in making paper constructions.

Make Some Mobiles and Stabiles

Constructions that stay fixed are "stabiles" while those that move are called "mobiles." Mobiles and stabiles invite invention and experimentation because of the variety of materials that can be chosen to work with. The following books will help make working with mobiles and stabiles an enjoyable experience:

Mobiles You Can Make by Loretta Holz, New York:
Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, 1975.

This book provides a definition of mobiles and the history and uses of mobiles as well as many recipes for making mobiles.

Collage and Construction by Lois Lord, Worchester, Mass.:
Davis Publications, Inc., 1970.

This book has two excellent chapters on stabiles and mobiles and is well illustrated.

Looking at Architecture

Architecture is another exciting area of study that might be an outgrowth of creating stabiles or modeling. Begin to explore this area by studying the floor plan of your child's room then of your home. Construct a model of your home with your child using stiff cardboard or building blocks. Make models of other buildings that your child chooses. Visit museums, schools, civic buildings, city buildings, synagogues or churches, airports, etc. Here are some interesting books that will help develop this area.

What Can She Be? AN ARCHITECT by Gloria and Ester Goldreich,
New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company, 1974.

This book explains the role of an architect and has some good photographs of different types of architecture.

Looking At Architecture by Roberta M. Paine, New York:
Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company

This is a book for you and your child to read together.

Super Structures by Alun Lewis, New York: Viking Press, 1979.

Super Structures is a book to read with your child. It explains in print and with beautiful illustrations how huge machines work and how large structures are built. It has, for the budding architect, the science of building - providing simple projects and experiments. This book contains an interesting section on the problems involved in creating such super structures as the Empire State Building and the Olympic Stadium in Munich.

Underground by David Macaulay, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1976.

Macaulay gives you and your child a rare glimpse of the complex and immense support system that exists beneath the city. He exposes a section of the underground and explains in a clear, concise manner how it works. The book contains detailed illustrations and diagrams which enhance the understanding and give us an appreciation for the complexity of our underground structures. Macaulay stuffs his books with vocabulary and architectural principles; therefore, it's a book that you and your child should work through and enjoy together as it was written with the intermediate grade student in mind.

David Macaulay has written three other books which make fascinating reading for you and your child.

*Cathedral
The Story of Its Construction by David Macaulay, Houghton Mifflin Company.
City
A Story of Roman Planning and Construction by David Macaulay, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Pyramid by David Macaulay, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Try Photography

A camera is a tool that not only brings excitement to a young child but also provides a photographic record for the child. Photography can be a natural avenue for self-expression as well as an effective way to orient the child to our visual world. Photography can bring excitement and a sense of accomplishment to your child.

Develop Some Principles of Photography

The following books provide excellent sources for information about photography.

Photography: A Manual For Shutterbugs by Eugene Kohn, New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

This book can be read by a strong reader; however, it would be beneficial if the ideas and vocabulary could be shared with you. Photography: A Manual For Shutterbugs has a good section on how photography began as well as several

lengthy sections on different types of cameras, use of film, and use of a camera. One of the most valuable sections in this book is a step by step description of how to develop your own film. This section is clearly written and easy to follow. The prices have changed for equipment since this book was written, but the process hasn't.

Fun With Your Camera by Mae and Ira Freeman, New York: Random House, 1955.

This is a good book for explaining the camera and how it works as well as how to take photographs of people, landscapes, and action. It gives some ideas as to how to keep records with photographs, to preserve your photographs, and to create art with your photographs.

We Read About Taking Pictures
Webster Beginner Science Series by Harold Tannenbaum and Nathan Stillman, St. Louis: Webster Publishing Company, 1960.

This is a book that your child will read. It contains solid information about the science of taking pictures.

*1973 Caldecott Honor Book